

THE ALMA RECORD.

VOL. XXXIX—No. 2

ALMA, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY AFTERNOON, APRIL 26, 1917

WHOLE NUMBER 1988

COUNTY AGENT IS APPOINTED

**C. J. Chambers Appointed
Farm Agent And Is To
Aid The Farmers.**

STATE IS AFTER BIG CROPS

**Has Appointed Commissioner in
Every County To Work With
Agriculturalists.**

As a part of the general plan in preparing the nation for the great struggle upon which it has entered, the state has appointed an agricultural agent in every county in Michigan which does not at present have such an agent. C. J. Chambers of Ithaca has been appointed the agent for Gratiot county.

This agent should not be confused with the one upon which the voters of Gratiot county recently voted and rejected. While the newly appointed commissioner has the same duties, the purpose, the plan and the method of pay differ materially from that of the farm commissioner upon which the people of the county voted.

These agents are appointed for the purpose of aiding the farmers in every way possible to bring forth bountiful crops and thus aid in relieving the food situation which is growing worse every day, as prices on food-stuffs mount higher and higher. The agent is appointed not because of an intimate knowledge of the various soils of the county, but because of the practical knowledge of the county which they have, its resources, men, and the means by which quick action can be secured throughout the county.

He is expected to devote his entire time to this work during the coming six months, and he will be assisted by a committee of practical men selected from every township and city in the county, the committee to be picked by the state. It will be up to the commissioner and the committee to get every possible acre under cultivation this year, as well as endeavor to stimulate the production of meat and dairy products, poultry and eggs.

It will also be a portion of their duty to aid the farmer in securing the help that is needed, so that crops may be harvested promptly when ready, so that no portion of the crop in the county may be unharvested through a shortage of labor.

These farm agents are selected to serve under a state commission recently appointed by the governor. This commission consists of Fred Warner of Farmington, J. S. Hagerly of Detroit, W. J. Gray of Saginaw, N. P. Hall of Diamond Lake, George McCormick of Monroeville, Nathan Simpson of Jackson and W. K. Prudden of Lansing. Among these men are specialists in various farm crops, in manufacturing, etc. The appointment of such men to this commission means that Michigan is out to do her part in the big world war and in the battle against high prices.

Anyone who has not arranged for employment this summer should get into communication with Mr. Chambers, as should the farmers who are unable to secure help. Every means is to be taken to secure men for farm labor. If selective conscription is adopted an accurate census will be taken of all able bodied men in every community, and many of these who can, will get assignments on the farms.

One thing that should be thoroughly understood is that there is no need of apprehension over the overstocking of the markets. So far as can be foreseen, the present prices for farm products will continue or mount even higher. The whole movement is being organized as an aid in giving the United States the allies and the neutral countries sufficient food and to prevent starvation. One of the quickest ways to end the war is to keep our soldiers in good condition, and also the rest of our people, that they may better serve their country and respond better to the strain that will be placed upon them. This can only be done through every activity possible that will aid in the raising of foodstuffs for the United States, the allies and the neutral countries.

MARRIED IN DETROIT

**Miss Emsley and E. B. Soule Wedded
Last Thursday.**

Elvin B. Soule and Miss Eliza Emsley, both of this city, were united in marriage last week Thursday at the home of the bride's sister, Mrs. Bruce Failing, in Detroit, the wedding taking place at noon.

Both quietly left the city the fore part of last week and went to Detroit, as did Rev. J. W. Priest, who was called to that city to perform the ceremony.

The "newlyweds" have many friends in this city, who have been expecting to hear of the wedding for some weeks, and who will be glad to extend to them their best wishes for a happy wedded life. They will reside in the groom's residence on Snead street, and will be at home to their many friends after May 1st.

ALMA LADY DEAD

**Mrs. G. B. Austin Passed Away Last
Week Thursday.**

Mrs. George B. Austin of this city passed away last week Thursday morning, April 19th, at the age of 89 years.

She was born in Isabella county December 25, 1828, and spent the greater portion of her life in this section of the state and for a number of years had been a resident of this city.

She leaves to mourn their loss a husband, George B.; one daughter, Elsie Posey of St. Louis; and six sons, E. D. of Royal Oak; Charles E. Harold, Carl, George and Rex of this city, besides other relatives and a host of friends.

The funeral services were held here Friday morning at 8:30, Rev. Brownlow having charge of the services. Following the funeral services the body was taken to Wayne county, where interment was made in Tyler Street cemetery.

"Pearl of the Army"—Idlehour soon.—Adv.

PREPAREDNESS PARADE FOR SATURDAY NIGHT

**Efforts Will Be to Stimulate En-
listments With Big Time
That Night.**

Efforts will be made to stimulate enlistments here Saturday evening when a big preparedness parade is held on the streets of Alma at 7:30 p. m.

The famous Republic band will head the parade which is to be held, and will furnish music, due to the kindness of the truck company. Efforts are being made to get the boys out to aid in the affair and also to get the Alma college students to take part in the movement to stimulate enlistments here. If the present plans go through without a hitch other attractions will also be found in the parade, which will be well worth the seeing.

Alma has been lagging behind in the matter of enlistments in the service, since the declaration of war against Germany, very few having enlisted here to aid in upholding the honor of the country, which is now seeking a greater independence for itself and for all mankind, when it is fighting the battle of humanity without hope of gain.

VACANT SPACE GOING

**No Vacant Space Unutilized in Alma
This Season.**

Adopting this slogan, a committee was formed on Monday of this week with a view to promoting vegetable gardening in all possible places in and near Alma this spring. Mrs. F. N. Notestein, 231 Philadelphia avenue, telephone Alma 208, is chairman of the committee, and she will be glad to furnish information or give suggestions to those who apply for it. Several women volunteered for service on this committee, and will at once proceed to look up vacant or unused ground, and get permission from owners to allow those living near to put such ground to use this summer. The call of President Wilson, published on Monday, the fact that unless men and women and young people all do some sort of productive work toward the food question this season may all know what hunger is before the year is over; the general situation makes the work of such a committee as this of the utmost importance at this moment.

The following passage is taken from a letter recently published by Professor O. S. Morgan of Columbia University: "You who have lands and equipment but are short on financial resources may get help as never before to underwrite any reasonable effort you may propose; you who have lands make an effort to have them used. Announce the fact locally and publicly that your land is held in trust this year for him or her, young or old, who will undertake a reasonable gardening or farming operation thereon. You who are free for farm or garden work, man or woman, boy or girl, get work. If the contract does not come to you, go after it. Most of us can demand entire wheat flour bread, many of us only relish graham flour bread and thereby each can save during the year not less than one bushel of wheat."

All interested in such a movement in Alma as represented by Mrs. Notestein's committee (which may be said to represent the Woman's club, the Civic league and the Art club) are urged to communicate with her at once.

Geraldine Farrar—Idlehour Monday.—Adv.

HENDERSON STOCK COMPANY

The Henderson Stock company will open a week's engagement at the Opera House Monday, April 30th, in a repertoire up to date—comedies and dramas, including the greatest of all modern dramas, "Traffic in Souls." Opening Monday night with the comedy, "For His Sister's Sake." Ask your merchants for free tickets.

Don't miss Holiday Park auction. 88-14c

BUILDING FINE NEW STRUCTURE

**Alma Garage Will Have One
Of The Finest Buildings
In This City.**

MODERN IN EVERY DETAIL

**Will Be Two Stories in Height
and Hold 125 Automobiles
at Once.**

The City of Alma will shortly have a new garage that will eclipse anything of the kind which the city now boasts, in point of buildings, ground having been broken by the Alma Garage for a fine two-story building in which this business is to be located in the future.

The building will be two stories and a basement in height and will be 50 by 132 feet. The 32 feet will make a big frontage, on East Superior street. The building will have a fine brick front that will be a credit to the city.

Mr. Burton expects that the new garage will be capable of taking care of about one hundred and twenty-five cars at one time, giving ample room for everything that will be needed.

The first floor of the building will be used for storage and a service station. The front part of the room will also have a fine sales and display room, in which the various cars handled by the Alma Garage will be on display at all times. The necessary tools and tires will be handled on this floor.

The second floor of the building will be entirely given over to repair work. A large elevator will connect the second floor with the lower floor and make an easy way to get cars into the repair shop.

The garage will have three large entrances, one in front, one at the side on the alley and one in the rear, making it easy to place cars just where they are wanted no matter how crowded the storage room happens to be.

The new structure is to be modern in every respect and will be located by term.

MOBILIZING WOMEN

**League for Woman's Service to Or-
ganize in Every County.**

Michigan is to have a branch of the National League for Woman's Service in every county, as her part of the plan to register, co-ordinate and develop the woman power in America.

The National League for Woman's Service, which has state headquarters at 26 Withersell street, Detroit, was organized in Washington, D. C., January 27. The organization committee includes Miss Maud Wetmore of Rhode Island, chairman; Miss Anne Morgan of New York, treasurer; and Miss Grace Parker of New York, national commandant.

The object is: "To co-ordinate and standardize the work of women in America along lines of constructive patriotism, to develop the resources and promote the efficiency of women in meeting every day responsibilities to home, to state, to nation, and to humanity; to provide organized, trained groups in every community prepared to co-operate with the Red Cross and other agencies in dealing with any calamity—fire, flood, famine, economic disorder, etc., and in time of war to supplement the work of the Red Cross, the army and navy, and to deal with questions of woman's work and woman's welfare." Its slogan is: "For God, for Country, for Home."

The state officers are: Chairman, Miss Helen E. Kepp; vice-chairman, Mrs. Walter R. Parker; treasurer, Mrs. Gertrude Denby; secretary, Mrs. Arthur Maxwell Parker, all of Detroit. Other members of this committee are: Mrs. Harry G. Bulkeley, Mrs. A. W. Copeland and Mrs. Truman H. Newberry of Detroit; Mrs. J. Campbell, Grand Rapids; Mrs. Francis King, Alma; and Mrs. W. B. Williams, Lapeer.

Take out auto to sale free. 88-14c

SHOWER AND LUNCHEON

**Functions Given in Honor of Miss
Sadie Messinger.**

Mrs. F. E. Pollasky gave a kitchen shower last week Thursday in honor of Miss Sadie Messinger, at which about thirty guests were present and on the following day Mrs. Francis King entertained at luncheon and luncheon and bridge in her honor.

The Pollasky home on Thursday was gayly decorated with Bridal roses, sweet peas, cupid and hearts, making a very beautiful and effective decoration for the occasion. Light refreshments were served.

A fine array of kitchen utensils in pyrex and aluminum were the gifts presented to Miss Messinger by her many friends at the shower at the Pollasky home.

Mrs. King entertained twelve guests in honor of Miss Messinger on Friday at luncheon and bridge, where a splendid time was enjoyed. The decorations were tulips, jonquils and daffodils.

A DRY AMERICA

**Strong Indications That Country May
Be Made Dry.**

A dry United States did not seem many years distance when the country entered the greatest of all wars, and now it seems to be only a matter of a few short months, perhaps only a matter of a couple weeks. It may come at any time, as a war measure, and once it comes, it is believed that national prohibition will be a thing that will be lasting, rather than a measure that will endure for the duration of the war.

The United States and the rest of the world is suffering from a great food shortage, and national prohibition is going on over the proposition because of the amount of food that such a measure would release to the world. The same spirit which actuated England, France and Russia to call for prohibition or partial prohibition for the duration of the war, that the men would be in better condition to serve their country, is also being used as a telling argument for national prohibition in the United States for the duration of the great struggle which may come.

Many of the governors of twenty-one wet states have declared that it would be a fine thing to have such a war measure now, especially when the world is facing one of the greatest food shortages in history. Only a very few of them, governors of strong liquor states, refused to commit themselves upon the subject.

Such a war measure may come from either one of two sources—President Wilson or congress. At present indications are that President Woodrow Wilson is seriously contemplating the issuance of such a war measure, and it would surprise no one to hear that such a measure has been given out by him.

A slight idea of the size of the distributing plant that it is expecting to build here has been obtained, it having been said that if the company secures the piece of property adjacent to the railroads, which it needs, around \$25,000 will be spent for the plant, which will be of brick construction.

It has also been hinted that the company will not go to such a large expense if it is forced to build on the leased land at the foot of Lincoln avenue, but will erect a plant of a few more temporary construction, probably putting up frame buildings.

The company will need an acre or more of ground, and while it is east about for a desirable location, the matter will be up in the air, to some extent. That the distributing plant will be built here is certain, and it will, without question, be built this summer, and will supply all of this section of the state with the Standard Oil company's products.

Y. M. C. A. CLUBS

**County Groups Will Take Up Agri-
culture.**

Last year over one hundred boys were interested in Agricultural club work by the county Y. M. C. A. and sixty-two of them finished their enterprise in a commendable way in spite of the unfavorable year.

This year, owing to the extreme high prices of garden and farm products, the county Y. M. C. A. committee and secretary intend to emphasize this branch of their summer's program.

As far as the boys have been interested they are showing much increased interest, every lively fellow wanting to raise something to help feed the nation.

The intention is to organize the boys into clubs with an older man for leader. These clubs to have meetings at which they tell their experiences and encourage one another to their best efforts. Also something along the social line.

Each boy will be provided with a report blank from M. C. A. in which he keeps a detailed account of his expenses and income that he may know what he makes and how much his crop costs a bushel. The boys may also have the college bulletins on the crop they are raising.

In the fall we will hold local exhibits of the garden and farm products and later a county exhibit at which a day's program will be had including a banquet dinner for the boys and some state speakers.

The plan is to organize clubs in every town in the county and in any country neighborhood where three or more boys wish to organize a club.

Any boy or group of boys who wish to know more about the Agricultural club work or have a club of their own may write to Blaine Curtis, Alma, county Y. M. C. A. secretary, and he will do his best to help them.

Any country school teacher who has a group of boys over ten years old who are interested or whom you will try to interest may notify Mr. Curtis.

Let us work together and encourage each other to do our best that the fertile yards and fields of Gratiot county may raise their largest crop and thus help keep our nation and others from great need.

Seventy-three Alma boys have signed their desire to raise gardens. These gardens will be divided into four clubs, each under a good leader. Twenty-seven of them will need help in getting land for their gardens.

Persons having vacant lots or other garden space they will let the boys use, please notify Clifford Cummings of Alma State Savings bank, or at his home, 468 Union phone.

"Pearl of the Army"—Idlehour soon.—Adv.

GROW ASSISTANT CLERK

Owing to the illness of city clerk, Carl Gallagher, the common council on Tuesday evening of this week appointed C. M. Grow, assistant city clerk.

WILL BUILD THIS SUMMER

**Standard Oil Co. Prefers To
Build On Own Land In-
stead Of Leased.**

LOOKING FOR A GOOD SITE

**A Good Location is Found.
About \$25,000 Will Be
Spent Here.**

It is said that the Standard Oil company is now looking for a site here which may be purchased, and which will be handy to the railroads, on which they can build, rather than build on leased ground. This will also make a difference in the amount that this company will spend here for its distributing plant.

Men were in the city on Tuesday of this week looking over available sites but nothing has been secured as yet, and it may be that the company will be forced to build on the ground that it has leased near the foot of Lincoln avenue.

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AFTERNOON OFF

**Republic Gives Employees Half Day
With Pay.**

Starting last week Saturday afternoon, the employees of the Republic Motor Truck Company, Inc., of this city were given a half day off with pay.

This is to be continued by the Republic, the men being given every Saturday afternoon off without loss of wages. It is felt that this will actuate the men to do more and better work during the balance of the week, than has been the case in the past and that it will also make up the added cost to the company, which is so liberal in giving its men this time off with pay.

It will also serve to keep the men on the job during the balance of the week, which is another point which was taken into consideration in giving the men a half day. With all the men on the job, much more work can be accomplished at a smaller cost, than when a few are missing here and there, who are important cogs in any wheel.

FOUR IMPORTANT DRY LAWS PASSED

**Senator Damon of This District
Author of Two of the Dry
Measures.**

Two of the four important dry laws, which are designed to make the state of Michigan "bone dry" were the creations of Senator Damon of this district.

It is thought that these four bills will thoroughly cover the ground for which they are designated and that they will make Michigan the one "bone dry" state. Following are brief outlines of the bills.

The Wiley law puts into operation the provisions of the constitutional amendment prohibiting the liquor traffic adopted November 7, 1916; provides for the sale of intoxicating liquors for medicinal, mechanical, chemical, scientific and medicinal purposes; provides for sale for these purposes by druggists who take out permits so to do; permits manufacture of cider for vinegar; defines intoxicating liquors as all liquors capable of being used as a beverage, which contain alcohol; provides for search and seizure of suspected places, the same as the local option law; prohibits sale or keeping for sale of liquors; prohibits solicitation of orders for liquors by any person; prohibits advertising of intoxicating liquors; makes it the duty of all police and peace officers to enforce the law, and makes their failure to discharge this duty cause for forfeiture of their office and grounds for removal.

The Damon law prohibits the bringing or carrying into the state, or the receipt or possession of any intoxicating liquors within the state. This law will make the state "bone dry."

The Lewis law makes it the duty of the Food and Drug Commissioner to supervise and secure the enforcement of the laws relating to the prohibition of the liquor traffic; gives him authority to appoint such inspectors, investigators and assistants as may be deemed necessary. The duty imposed by this law does not relieve local officers from their duty of enforcement, but is intended to be supplemental thereto. The Food and Drug Commissioner is not a new officer, but the Dairy and Food Commissioner under a new name.

The Damon law amends Act 272, Public Acts of 1915; declares that places where intoxicating liquors are sold are nuisances, and provides the machinery for closing such places by injunction proceedings. Under the provisions of this act, when the existence of a nuisance is established by court proceedings, the furniture or contents of the building used in conducting the nuisance are ordered removed and sold, and the place is ordered closed for one year. The owner may release the premises from such closing order by giving a bond of the full value of the property. Under this law a person violating any order of the court may be punished for contempt of court. This law will provide effective means to close places where liquor is sold illegally.

Easy terms at the big auction sale. 88-14c

Archie Fairchild was arrested last week Thursday by city marshal, William Rogers, on a charge of being drunk. Fairchild was taken before Justice I. A. Mann, where he entered a plea of not guilty and his trial was set for April 30th.

The arrest of Fairchild is an outgrowth of the complaints made a week ago by him against Dick Rider and Harry Miller charging them with being drunk. A week ago last Sunday, it is said, that the three were at the home of Ollie Worden. Later Fairchild swore to have lost fifty dollars and also claimed that it was taken from him. It was returned by Worden, who said that he had taken it so that Fairchild wouldn't lose it.

Fairchild swore out warrants for Rider and Miller for being drunk, and both paid small fines, and then the officers turned around and arrested Fairchild on the same charge.

FAIRCHILD ARRESTED

**Charged With Being Drunk After
Making Complaints Against Two.**

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CONTRACT AWARDED

**Port Huron Firm to Build City Side-
walks This Year.**

The Van Camp Construction company of Port Huron was awarded the contract for putting in the sidewalks for the city of Alma this year, at the council meeting on Tuesday night of this week, the outside firm turning in a lower bid than either of the two bids filed by local concerns.

Bartling & Holmes put in a bid of thirteen and a half cents a square foot for sidewalk and seventeen cents for crosswalk with ten per cent for excavating. The Van Camp Construction company filed a bid of twelve and a half cents for sidewalk and fifteen cents for crosswalk and eighty-five cents per cubic yard for excavating. Charles Williams filed a bid of fourteen cents a square foot for sidewalk, eighteen cents a square foot for crosswalk and fifty cents a cubic yard for excavating. The council unanimously voted to accept the bid of the Van Camp Construction company for the fiscal year.

BANKERS WANT A BIG CROP RAISED

**Make Plea For All Available
Ground To Be Under
Cultivation.**

WINTER WHEAT IS HARD HIT

**As Result Much More of Other
Crops Must Be Raised by
Farmers.**

Bankers the entire country over are endeavoring to impress upon the public attention the gravity of the situation which now confronts the world in the scarcity of food supplies. The situation is growing more serious as spring advances and the danger to the winter wheat crop of this country is understood.

All Europe—neutral as well as warring nations—have been placed upon food rations to see out supplies until the new crop is harvested. The present prospects of a short winter wheat crop is alarming. The spring wheat crop is notoriously subject to weather conditions. More spring wheat should be sown, but it is doubtful if the winter wheat shortage can be made up. Other food crops must be sown to make up the deficiency.

Picture in your mind what conditions will be in our cities next winter, and of the effect upon all industries, if food supplies are scarce and dearer than they are now. It must be impressed upon everybody that no price advances or regulations of prices can add one bushel of wheat or potatoes to the supply after the growing season is over.

The country is alarmed but more alarm will not accomplish results. There must be organized personal work, headed in every locality by men of force and influence.

The governor of Iowa has called for the enlistment of boys from thirteen to eighteen years to work either in town gardens or upon the farms. President Wilson says that these boys will be "Soldiers of the Community." There are fine possibilities in this idea. The boys may be brought to feel that they are serving their country as truly as their older brothers who enlist in army or navy and the girls should have a chance as well. They should have a medal to keep as life-long evidence of their service in the last great war—let us hope—of the world's history. Michigan boys can also render a great aid and a movement is on foot to organize them for farm labor.

Many city banks are arranging for garden spots for all of their clerks. Industrial employers are doing likewise, and will provide seeds and instruction. Organized work of this kind with suitable supervision will be most effective. Every employer in this locality should be waited upon by a committee, and invited to operate in this manner.

Although it is of course the desire to increase the farm crops as much as possible and especially the spring wheat crop, it may be that the best chance to increase the food supply is by the intensive cultivation of garden tracts in and adjacent to towns, where labor in addition to the regular farm supply can be secured for growing potatoes, beans, onions, etc. Each community is able to go ahead upon this work without help from outside. The aggregate result will depend upon the efficiency of the local organizations.

Bankers are quick to recognize the gravity of the situation and their relations with the business community are such as to enable them to realize the importance of general co-operation. Pamphlets on how to grow a garden are being distributed by our local banks, and all of our readers may do their part to meet the situation by securing a copy and putting in a garden to help along the economy campaign for the benefit of humanity.

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